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From: Richardson, Michael
Sent: 2017-12-01T12:19:57-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Revised Comm Plan and Q&A's
Received: 2017-12-01T12:20:45-05:00
[Revised BLM Utah CommPlan ActiononMonumentReview.docx](#)
[BLM Utah QandA BENM Updated.docx](#)
[BLM Utah QandA GSENM Updated.docx](#)

Dan/Jeff,
Revised Comm Plan and more in-depth Q&A's for your review. Thanks--Mike

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I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order. ~ John Burroughs

Bears Ears National Monument

Questions and Answers

What are the major differences between the previous BENM boundary established in 2016 and the revised monument boundary established in 2017?

PLACEHOLDER: *Insert key acreage differences, a comparison map, note geographic areas affected by revision, discuss the inclusion of key areas with "objects" (paleo/archy/etc.) and also note areas with other non monument protections that are outside of the new boundary.*

Who manages the new national monument?

The BLM and the USFS jointly manage the new national monument. Only federal lands are subject to the terms of the proclamation. Goosenecks State Park and Natural Bridges National Monument are within the Bears Ears National Monument boundary; however, these areas will continue to be managed by Utah State Parks and the National Park Service, respectively. No reservation lands are included in Bears Ears National Monument.

Can I visit the new national monument?

Yes. The Monticello Field Office and Kane Gulch Ranger Station will continue to operate during their normal business hours until further notice. The public is invited to continue enjoying public lands in San Juan County, regardless of whether the lands are inside or outside of the new monument boundaries. (Note: The Kane Gulch Ranger Station is open annually from March 1 through June 15 and September 1 through October 31.)

I have a grazing/special recreation/research permit within BENM. Who do I contact?

All grazing, research, and special recreation permits issued by the Monticello Field Office remain in effect under the existing terms and conditions. BLM will contact individual permittees with improved information in the near future. Please submit any required forms and fees to the Monticello Field Office on their previously established due date.

How are American Indian tribes involved in the management of the new national monument?

To reflect tribal expertise and traditional and historical knowledge, the proclamation established a Bears Ears Commission. The commission is composed of one elected officer from the Hopi Nation, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Zuni Tribe. The proclamation requires the BLM and the USFS to "meaningfully engage the Commission...in the development of the management plan and to inform subsequent management of the monument." The BLM and the USFS are looking forward to working together with the newly established Bears Ears Commission to implement the proclamation.

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Commented [GAL1]:(b) (5) - DPP

In addition to working with the Bears Ears Commission, the BLM and the USFS will continue to engage in government to government consultation with the tribes that have cultural affiliation with the area.

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How do changes in the BENM boundary affect mineral leasing in the area?

All lands within the new monument boundaries will remain closed to mineral leasing. BLM administered lands that are outside of the new monument boundaries will be managed according to the 2008 Monticello Resource Management Plan, as amended. National Forest System lands that are outside of the new monument boundaries will managed in according to Manti La Sal Forest Plan.

How do changes in the BENM boundary affect mineral location in the area?

The new monument is withdrawn from mineral entry. Public lands that are not included in the new national monument are immediately available for mineral location.

How do changes in the BENM boundary affect livestock grazing management?

Grazing continues to be authorized with the goal of maintaining healthy land conditions. Livestock grazing will continue to be managed under existing laws, regulations, and policies followed by the BLM and the USFS.

Will American Indian tribes have access to the area for ceremonial and other traditional uses?

Yes. Tribes will continue to be able to collect plants and other traditional materials for noncommercial uses inside and outside of the new national monuments. American Indians who are collecting products on BLM administered lands for ceremonial or other traditional uses can obtain a free use permit from the BLM Monticello Field Office, 365 North Main Street, Monticello, UT 84535 (435) 587 1500.

How do changes in the BENM boundary affect firewood collection?

The new monument proclamation has no immediate effect on firewood collection. BLM will continue to issue permits based on the availability of woodland products and protection of other resource values. The existing Monticello Field Office Resource Management Plan identifies areas that are open for firewood collection. In some areas, commercial and private collection of firewood is not allowed.

How do changes in the BENM boundary affect travel management or route designations?

Public lands in San Juan county provide outstanding opportunities for motorized recreation. All roads and trails that were open before the original monument designation (approximately 1,800 miles) continue to be open to motorized vehicle use. The revised proclamation has no

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immediate bearing on public motorized access. As part of the management planning process for the new national monuments, the travel management plans for these areas will be updated. This could result in some changes in motorized vehicle use. Any changes to the travel management plan will include public involvement.

Can I hunt within the national monument?

BENM continues to be open to hunting opportunities. Hunting will continue to be managed by the State of Utah under the same regulations as before the original designation.

Commented [GAL6]: We excluded fishing only because there are no fish-bearing streams in BENM.

Do I need camping permits or climbing permits to access the monument?

Under current management, no permits are required for car camping on BLM administered lands, unless there are more than 15 vehicles or more than 50 people. Backcountry camping permits are required for many of the Cedar Mesa canyons. No permits are required for rock climbing. However, all commercial guiding and activities on any BLM administered lands require a permit.

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Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

Questions and Answers

What are the major differences between the previous GSENM boundary established in 1996 and the revised monument boundary established in 2017?

PLACEHOLDER: *Insert key acreage differences, a comparison map, note geographic areas affected by revision, discuss the inclusion of key areas with "objects" (paleo/archy/etc.) and also note areas with other non monument protections that are outside of the new boundary.*

Who manages the national monument?

The BLM solely manages the monument. Only federal lands are subject to the terms of the proclamation.

Can I visit the new national monument?

Yes. All four GSENM visitor centers will continue to operate during their normal business hours until further notice. The public is invited to continue enjoying public lands in Garfield and Kane counties, regardless of whether the lands are inside or outside of the new monument boundaries.

I have a grazing/special recreation/research permit within GSENM. Who do I contact?

All grazing, research, and special recreation permits issued by GSENM remain in effect under the existing terms and conditions. BLM will contact individual permittees with improved information in the near future. Please submit any required forms and fees to GSENM on their previously established due date.

How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect the management of paleontological resources in the area?

The new national monument boundaries were carefully selected to include known paleontological specimens and high fossil yield classes, including the area where the recent Tyrannosaurus specimen was located. Federal law prohibits the collection of vertebrate fossils on all public lands without a valid paleontological research permit. All lands previously located in the GSENM boundary remain closed to the collection of petrified wood and fossils. Under DOI's Proposed rule at 43 CFR § 49, the casual collection of common invertebrate fossils would remain prohibited in the newly designated national monuments.

How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect mineral leasing in the area?

All lands within the new monument boundaries will remain closed to mineral leasing. All lands previously included in the GSENM boundary remain closed to mineral leasing. A future land use

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plan amendment would determine whether public lands that are not included in the new national monument should open or closed to leasing and any appropriate constraints.

Commented [GAL9]: The current MMP designates the all lands within the current boundaries as closed to leasing.

How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect mineral location in the area?

The new monument is withdrawn from mineral entry. Public lands that are not included in the new national monument are immediately available for mineral location.

How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect livestock grazing management?

No changes will occur to livestock grazing management as a result of the new monument proclamation. Grazing continues to be authorized with the goal of maintaining healthy land conditions. Livestock grazing will continue to be managed under existing laws, regulations, and policies followed by the BLM. Changes in livestock grazing management will continue to occur on a case by case basis until a land use plan amendment is completed.

Commented [GAL10]: WO/DOI to verify

How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect travel management or route designations?

Motorized vehicle travel will continue be allowed on currently designated motorized vehicle routes. The new monument designation has no immediate effect on public motorized access. The current travel management plan will remain in effect until a land use plan amendment or revision. This could result in some changes in motorized vehicle use both inside and outside of the national monument boundaries. Any changes to the travel management plan will include public involvement.

How do changes in the GSENM boundary affect the need for overnight camping permits?

Users are still required to obtain free overnight permits within both the new monument and the previous GSENM boundaries. Permits are available at major trailheads or at any of the four Visitor Centers.

Can I hunt or fish within the new national monument?

GSENM continues to be open to hunting and fishing. These activities are managed by the Utah Department of Fish and Wildlife under the same regulations as before the original designation.

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Communication Plan

Presidential Action on Secretarial Recommendation for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears National Monument

INTRODUCTION

President Trump will visit Utah in early December to announce action on Interior Secretary Zinke's recommendations for the Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. This plan provides key messaging and information to use during the roll-out of the new decisions when responding to both the public and media.

BACKGROUND

BLM Utah manages two national monuments: Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument established by President Clinton in 1996 and Bears Ears National Monument established by President Obama in 2016. Both monuments have been the subject of intense media scrutiny and controversy.

In April 2017, President Trump issued an Executive Order requesting review of certain monuments, including the GSENM and BENM. Secretary Zinke conducted a thorough review and prepared his recommendation to the President.

COMMUNICATION GOALS

1. Communicate BLM support of the pending Presidential decision regarding the BLM managed national monuments in Utah.
2. To communicate how lands affected in this decision will remain federally managed.
3. Public involvement will be welcomed in future land use planning and NEPA analyses as the agencies implement the new Proclamations.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

- Members of the public interested in National Monuments
- Local, state, and federal government agencies
- Tribes
- Local communities (Monticello, Blanding, Bluff, Cortez, Dove Creek, Montezuma Creek, Kanab, Escalante, Big Water, Cannonville, Boulder, Glendale)
- Special interest groups
- Nonprofit organizations
- Media and social media
- Industry –energy, grazing, mining

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- Recreationists (climbing, mountain biking, rock art/archaeology/paleontology groups, OHV users)

Key Messages

1. We want to make it clear that all lands removed from national monument status today will remain federally managed public lands for the benefit of the American public.
2. All of the same federal protections that existed for these areas before today will remain the same. Some of these include protections for archaeological sites and all cultural objects sacred to Native Americans as well as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which governs the way public lands under the Bureau of Land Management's jurisdiction are managed.
3. Members of the public will have numerous opportunities to help shape how these lands that are no longer part of the national monuments will be managed going forward. Until the new plans are developed, they will continue to be managed under existing plans.
4. Precious resources will still be protected without harming traditional uses, economic development, and public access for hunting, fishing and recreational activities.

STRATEGIES

1. Respond to all inquiries with consistent key messaging included.
2. Members of the media will be referred to press_interior@ios.doi.gov during the initial roll-out.
3. Q&A documents for the BENM and GSENM.
4. Edit BLM Utah website content to reflect monument boundaries, provide copy of Proclamation, etc.

I. Secretarial Review of National Monuments Communications Guidance and Q&As:

In response to media inquiries:

The Department of Interior is coordinating all media inquiries regarding the monument review. Please contact interior press@ios.doi.gov.

If asked about Utah's efforts to transfer federal lands to the state:

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Secretary Zinke has firmly and consistently stated his opposition to selling or transferring public lands, regardless of any recommendations for modifications to national monuments. These lands and their resources will remain in the stewardship of the BLM and USFS and available for public use.

Other talking points (*Paraphrased or direct quotes from DOI Press Releases*):

DOI hosted a formal public comment period on the review from May 12, 2017, to July 10, 2017. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to comment and to stakeholders who hosted field trips or met with Secretary Zinke. The comments received helped inform Secretary Zinke's recommendations to the President.

On June 12, 2017, Secretary Zinke submitted a 45-day interim report on Bears Ears National Monument to the President. His initial recommendations for Bears Ears included:

- Reconsidering monument boundaries
- Areas with cultural significance be co-managed by Tribal Nations
- Congressional action to protect certain areas

The 120-day review included more than 60 meetings with hundreds of advocates and opponents of monument designations, tours of monuments, including Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, conducted over air, foot, car, and horseback, and a thorough review of more than 2.4 million public comments submitted to the Department on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

Additionally, countless more meetings and conversations between senior Interior officials and local, state, tribal, and non-government stakeholders including multiple tribal listening sessions.

PLACEHOLDER: ADD INFO FROM FINAL SECRETARIAL REPORT/PROCLAMATION

What is the effect of a President's proclamation(s)?

The President's proclamation designates the X National Monument(s) and replaces the existing Proclamation establishing the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument from 1996. The designations direct the BLM to administer these areas for the care and management of objects of scientific and historic interest identified by the proclamations.

Specifically, what happens to the areas and their resources that are no longer inside the monument?

The BLM-managed lands that were previously within the monument will continue to be managed by the BLM but would no longer be part of the National Monument. These lands will

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be managed under the existing land use plans until newly revised management plans could be completed.

What happens to the areas that remain within a national monument?

The federal lands that are part of the national monuments belong to the American people. Families will be able to use the land as they always have: it will remain open for multiple uses including hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and grazing. All valid existing rights will continue to be honored, regardless of monument designation. In addition, nothing interferes with continued operation or maintenance of rights-of-way such as existing power lines and pipelines.

How does the proclamation affect public access?

Public access, for activities such as hunting and fishing, would continue to be managed by the State of Utah. Tribes will continue to be able to collect plants, firewood, and other traditional materials within monument boundaries. Visitors may continue to use motorized vehicles and non-motorized mechanized vehicles (e.g. mountain bikes) on roads and trails designated as open for their use.

How do national monuments affect grazing?

Designating an area as a national monument does not affect valid existing rights. Additionally, grazing permits and leases will continue to be issued and administered by the BLM. There have been no changes to grazing management since the initial establishment of the monuments in 1996.

How does a designation affect military uses of the land and airspace?

Nothing in the proclamation precludes low-level overflights of military aircraft, designation of new units of special use airspace, or the use or establishment of military flight training routes over the lands reserved by the proclamation, consistent with the care and management of the objects to be protected.